

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the last paragraph beginning on page 17 as follows:

The system 300 also preferably includes a sensor device ~~360~~ 359 for detecting the presence of a syringe 10 relative to a receiving pair of fingers 348. The sensor device ~~360~~ 359 is in communication with a controller 500 and is configured to send a signal to the controller 500 when the syringe 10 is in its proper orientation proximate the pair of receiving fingers 348. The proper orientation of the syringe 10 will vary depending upon the construction and placement and orientation of the vacuum dial 332 relative to the second transport device 340; however, it is generally a position where the syringe 10 lies above the pair of fingers 348 so that when the vacuum source is deactivated, the syringe 10 is already within the boundaries of the fingers 348 and it falls only a small distance within the fingers 348 to its resting position. For example, one exemplary sensor device ~~360~~ 359 is mounted as part of the second transport device 340 and is of the type that emits a beam such that when the syringe 10 impinges the beam due to it being brought into position within the fingers 348, the sensor device 360 sends a signal to the controller indicating the detection of the syringe 10 in the pocket defined by the pair of fingers 348.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 11 on page 18 as follows:

One exemplary sensor device ~~360~~ 359 is disposed along at least one of the belts 344, 345 and is configured to emit a light beam or the like. The sensor device ~~360~~ 359 is preferably located between one of the pairs of fingers 348 such that normal advancement of the vacuum dial 332 causes one of the syringes 10 to be introduced into the pocket defined by the pair of fingers 348 and impinge or break the light beam. As soon as the syringe 10 breaks the light beam, the sensor device ~~360~~ 359 sends a control signal to the controller instructing the controller to deactivate the vacuum in the groove 334 that carries the syringe 10 that has entered the pocket and broken the light beam. The deactivation of the vacuum source eliminates the mechanism that retains the syringe 10 within the groove 334 and therefore, once the vacuum is eliminated, the syringe 10 is free to and as a result of gravitational forces, the syringe 10 falls and clears the groove 334 and is captured within

